



State of California
Respiratory Care Board

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Inquiry: Our hospital is considering opening a hospital-based Home Infusion Therapy Department. My questions are: 1) Is there anything in the Respiratory Care Practice Act that prohibits RCPs from insertion or care of the intravenous lines, including PICC lines and enternal feeding tubes? 2) Is there anything that prohibits hanging of IV's that are not specific to the cardiopulmonary system? (e.g. antibiotics for cellulitis of the leg) 3) According to our practice act, is it possible to staff the Home Infusion Department exclusively with RCPs (e.g. without an RN on staff)? We realize that the RCPs would have to become certified in IV insertion. Just unclear whether an RN is essential for a Home Infusion program or if it can be staffed exclusively by RCPs.

Response: RCP's inserting and caring for IV lines is determined as Classification 1B - Not verbatim from the Respiratory Care Practice Act but, in the Respiratory Care Board's judgment, highly inferred and allowed.

RCP's inserting and caring for PICC lines is determined as Classification 1C - Not verbatim from the Respiratory Care Practice Act but, in the Respiratory Care Board's judgment, inferred and allowed.

RCP's inserting and caring for enternal feeding tubes is determined as Classification 1C - Not verbatim from the Respiratory Care Practice Act but, in the Respiratory Care Board's judgment, inferred and allowed.)

RCP's administering IV medications:

Respiratory Care Practice Related medications is determined as Classification 1A - Nearly verbatim from the Respiratory Care Practice Act.

Non Respiratory Care Practice Related is determined as Classification 1C - Not verbatim from the Respiratory Care Practice Act but, in the Respiratory Care Board's judgment, inferred and allowed.

The Statues related to these classifications are located in sections 3701 and 3702 of the practice act for your reference.

The practice act does not regulate the oversight of home infusion services. I would recommend that you refer to the statues from the Department of Health Services or you contact them directly for clarification. Their address is listed below:

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Department of Health Services (DHS)
714 / 744 "P" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-4171

As with any practice performed by licensed practitioners the appropriate training, guidelines and competencies must be provided by the licensed health care facility to ensure these services are conducted in a safe and competent manner when administered to the public.

Reference # 2002-C-07